

Gerry and oil: a fable of Sable

BY MARTIN LANGILLE

In Mobil's domain on Sable's bare shore
The drilling rigs clatter and toil,
And the clatter resounds in Halifax town
Where the idiot press cries: "IT'S OIL".

Now Regan has taken the Province's stand,
Against Ottawa's greed he debates;
But the squabble is lame, for since Mobil has claim
The wealth will go straight to the States.

Employment is scarce, the workers in need,
But though they continue to wait,
Not one concrete word from the Premier is heard
About jobs that the strike might create.

What benefits then? What streets paved gold?
What cures for our Province's ills?
When our biggest share of the black gold they spare
May be paving our coasts from the spills.

But Regan stays calm for he's learned the cure
From doctors of days gone by —
"When the patient is ill, his blood you let spill,
And bleed the poor fellow quite dry."

Like heavy water and other such cures
For setting our problems aright,
Regan lets out our wealth to better our health,
And pats his own back in delight.

So babble your promises, Regan, in vain;
We've heard the whole story before —
The companies gain from the wealth they obtain,
But the workers just keep getting poor.



NOVEMBER 1971

PRICE 10 cents

Cape Breton History bestseller

The need for a second printing of the Peoples History of Cape Breton is good evidence of working peoples' interest in the history of their own struggles.

The 48-page booklet has sold out its first press run of 5,000 copies in a little over a month, and 8,000 more have been ordered.

"We're really pleased with how this book has gone over," say the authors. "It hasn't had very much publicity from the established press, except the Highlander, so it's pretty well had to sell itself. The fact that 5,000 have sold already means that Nova Scotians are reading the booklet and talking about it."

The introduction explains the purpose of the booklet. "This is a story of the working people of Cape Breton. It is not your usual kind of history. It is not about kings and queens, explorers, adventurers, politicians and prime ministers. It is a history of the common people of Cape Breton, of their day-to-day fight to improve their working conditions and their struggle to build a better way of life."

The Peoples History has been selling for 10c in stores in Cape Breton and on the mainland for a little over a month. Some of the many places where it is available are: in Sydney, Fred's Creamery, Frankies School Supplies, and MacLeods Book Store; in Glace Bay, MacAskill's Creamery; in North Sydney, Herald Stationers; and in Halifax, the Downtown Book Mart, and Minerva Bookstore.

As well as sales in stores, thousands of booklets have been distributed by mail, with many bulk sets going to unions and schools. Some locals, like Steelworkers in Sydney, are using it for rank-and-file education on Cape Breton History.

People who can't get a copy at a store can order the Peoples History by mail from P.O. Box 1282, Halifax North P.O., Halifax. Because of the cost of postage, etc., mailed-out booklets are sold for 25c.

WHICH PAPER DO YOU SUPPORT?



Labatts lies- Olands workers face lay-offs

BY STEVE HART

AND BARBARA HARRIS

Olands breweries changed hands four months ago. You can't taste any change in the beer. But Olands workers are already feeling the effects of the changes that Labatts is making, and it's leaving a bitter taste in their mouths.

Labatts, a London, Ontario based firm, which already sells one-third of the beer consumed in Canada, took over Olands on June 29 of this year. The new owners assured the Olands workers that "Labatts will continue both breweries (Halifax and Saint John) in operation, expand the business and employ all current employees." "In addition," Bruce Oland added, "if they increase the brewery staff, they will all be Nova Scotians."

But the brewery staff is not increasing. Already cutbacks have been made. Labatts says that it can run the Halifax operation with about 100 men — 22 less than are currently employed. The men who work there have been told that layoffs will begin on November 13. With this to look forward to, some of the men have already left and have not been replaced.

Labatts also decided to temporarily cut back production — so they will need 19 less shifts. To eliminate these shifts, they cut back the hours of work of most of the junior employees to 32 hours per week — thus cutting the men's wages about \$28 per week.

If cutbacks had to be made, the union asked, why didn't Labatts just shut down the plant for two weeks, so that the burden of the cutback would be shared by all the men. That way all the workers could collect both unemployment insurance and their guaranteed days pay. The company refused. This solution would have been better for the workers but it would have meant pennies out of the pocket of the company.

The new owners are cutting costs in other places too. The canteen, which has been providing good, cheap meals for as long as the men can remember, is being torn down, and the space will be used for offices for the new Labatts managers.

A Labatts representative was overheard telling the Olands that they were spending "too much money on that castle and that boat (the Bluenose)". The workers were not too concerned by the cutbacks on these expensive, private pleasures, but a hot lunch is a small service for those who produced the profits which bought the Olands "that castle and boat" — along with another \$400,000 per year net income.

Labatts isn't just doing away with the frills. They plan to eliminate almost one-sixth of the work force. In order to maintain high productivity, they will train the remaining men to take on added jobs.

TWO FOR THE PRICE OF ONE

One man will have to do all the work on a truck, where two men have been working hard up until now. And in the plant, one man will have to run back and forth between his machine and the bottling line, doing two jobs at once.

A retraining program will make sure that each worker can do several jobs. Thus some men can be laid off and their jobs filled by the remaining workers.

The company's plans to lay off both regular and temporary employees may prove economical in more ways than one. Once the regular men collect their severance pay, they will be added to the pool of available temporary employees.

Oland's tradition has created this pool of cheap labour — experienced men who work whenever the company calls on them (often full time), doing the same work as regular employees for \$1.10 less an hour without job security or benefits.

REHIRE AT LOW PAY

One Olands worker is afraid that Labatts will take advantage of this to rehire the men who are laid off at the lower rate, when and if they decide to expand production.

The high unemployment in Nova Scotia might force these men — as it forces others now — to accept temporary work for lower wages.

See Olands Page 2

Neville of the Pier PAGE 2

Nixon's economics PAGE 3

Shipyard contract PAGE 4-5

Neville: I'm from the Pier, dear

The municipal elections are over in Sydney and several of the "pro-labour" candidates have been defeated; it's time to ask "what have we really lost?"

Alex MacInnis is no longer an alderman. Colin MacCormack, Peter Stephenson and Marty Moore were also turned out of office. They have been replaced by a businessman, an accountant, a school teacher and another steelworker. Maybe in next year's election more "pro-labour" candidates will be voted out.

And so some people are saying that the days of labour may have ended on city council. But again "what have we really lost?"

LOOK AT THE RECORDS

Let's look at the record of these "Labour" candidates. First, how do they campaign for office?

Here's the pitch. They tell you that they are "pro labour". That they believe in fighting for the just causes of Sydney citizens. That they have worked at the steel plant all their life. That they are nice guys and solid citizens.

Then they ask for your vote. They're the "pro labour" candidates and what more needs to be said.

For the last number of years, Sydney city council has been dominated by such labour candidates. Ed Johnson, Carl Neville, Alex MacInnis, Colin MacCormack, Peter Stephenson, Tommy Miller and Charlie Palmer — these are only a few of the labour candidates who have been elected and served on city council.

But what does it really mean to be "pro labour"? Does it mean taking economic and political control out of the hands of the local merchants and industrialists such as Derek Haysom, Gord Elman or the Duchmins? Does it mean more power for the working class?

One only has to examine some of the positions taken by "the labour aldermen" in the past few years to see what they stand for. It isn't working class power.

For example, last Christmas, after a year of record production and enormous profits, SYSCO gave steelworkers a meagre Christmas bonus. Alderman and steelworker Alex MacInnis cried out that the steelworkers were robbing pensioners and the aged because SYSCO should be paying out the money in taxes instead of benefits to workers. MacInnis must have forgotten that it was city council which gave SYSCO their "sweetheart tax deal" in 1969.

Or who can forget the stand taken by Cape Breton Trades Labour Council president Colin MacCormack when the workers of G and D Construction wildcatted in 1969. MacCormack called for the arming of the police with tear gas and hard hats for use during strikes.

AND THEN THERE'S NEVILLE

But the case of Mayor Carl Neville perhaps shows best how the "labour candidates" operate. An organizer and early president of Steelworkers local 1064, Neville has worked at the steel plant all his life. After 18 years on council as an alderman and deputy mayor, Neville got the mayor's job when Russell Urquhart died in office. Neville has been mayor ever since; his present term expires in 1973.

He was born and has lived in working class Whitney Pier all his life. The Pier remains his political base.

At election time in 1968, the Highlander wrote that, "as a lifelong steelworker, his basic concern would most naturally be with the welfare of the hard-pressed working people."

Since being elected, Neville has shown precious little of that supposed concern for the "hard-pressed working people."

Throughout his term of office, Neville has forced city employees to the wall numerous times.

In June 1969, all five city unions wildcatted against the labour dominated city council to speed up contract nego-

tiations which had been stalled for 6 months. Council members claimed that the coffers were empty; suddenly, in August, they "discovered" the money for the settlement.

In September 1969, city schools didn't open on time when Neville, who was also school board chairman, refused to pay a long-agreed wage differential.

Then, the next summer, Neville was all for "contracting out" city garbage collection. The scheme, if it had gone through, would have put a number of employees out of work and smashed their union.

Finally, there were the police and city workers strikes of the past few months and the near-strike forced on city firemen. The fireman's dispute was only settled because Neville happened to be out of town at the time.



It is hardly a distinguished record for a supposed man of labour.

"He certainly hasn't put up much of a fight for workers," was how one Sydney resident put it.

"The man is intellectually bankrupt and devoid of any progressive ideas," said

another.

On questions of economic development and industrialization, Neville and council watch from the sidelines as the good ship Sydney flounders and breaks up.

In the past few years;

- unemployment has risen to more than 25%.

- welfare costs have increased more than 1000% in five years to take up the slack.

- only 149 public housing units have been built since 1967, far below the target of 500.

- thousands of the young and skilled have left the city.

- the nail and bar mills have left the steel plant.

- the steel plant still pumps out millions of tons of pollution causing a rising number of "black lung" cases and other hazards.

- SYSCO has been given a tax deal which means that in 10 years they will be paying \$500,000 less per year.

- most of the new industries, such as Hustler and Pyrominerals, have become fantasies.

The record of these so-called "labour candidates" shows that the way they administer Sydney is basically similar to the way any other group of candidates would run the city. They operate with the same political and economic premises; they see the same things as problems.

Some of their tactics make them even more dangerous than businessmen. They can use the "pro labour" label as a crutch or a smokescreen to cover the subservience of city council to the merchants and industrialists who still control Sydney.

But what would be the platform, the issues to be fought, by real pro-working class candidates?

Immediately it must be recognized that city governments are limited, particularly at present, in the methods they can

the plant was shut down and the men thrown out of work.

The company has plans of expansion in Montreal and a new brewery in Trinidad. And they are always extending and enlarging their other holdings which include Habitant, Catelli, and Five Roses food products, Laura Secord Candy, Smiles and Chuckles, Ogilvie Flour and Parkdale Wines.

N. E. Hardy, president of Labatts, was quick to explain to the Olands employees that there were benefits in working for a large company.

He claimed that joining with Labatts would mean "strengthened job security and improved work opportunities within a larger company." This job security was quickly found to be a bluff when some of the men who were slated for layoff asked to be transferred to another Labatts plant. Labatts said no. Labatts will drain off profits to Ontario, but refuses to promise jobs there to displaced employees.

Many of the Olands workers have been at the brewery for 20 years, so they weren't prepared for the changes a big, slick company like Labatts would make. Since they had just signed a contract for increased wages with Olands, they thought they were doing all right.

But wages can be the least of your worries with a company like Labatts. They can always cover wage increases by laying off men or speeding-up production — without losing a cent of their profits. It is these changes that the workers must be able to control.

This fight for control is a continuous one. It means that the workers, who both produce the goods on the shop floor and know most about the production process begin to take over the decision making in the plant.

The three year contract signed just after the sale gave the men no protection

use to fight for and with working people. The federal and provincial governments have much more authority and power.

Still, advances could be made by a really pro-labour Sydney city council.

Some of the possible issues would be:

- work out a new tax deal with SYSCO and make alliances with Local 1064 to put on the pressure.

- end all tax concessions and write-offs with existing industries such as General Instruments and make sure that all new industry that comes doesn't get away with tax freeloading.

- force new industry to guarantee that they will stay in Sydney for at least 10 years.

- cut all municipal services to plants which are on strike.

- restrict the use of city police in strikes and ensure that they do not assist companies in strikebreaking activities.

- democratize working conditions of city employees and encourage rank and file control.

- introduce working class and Cape Breton history in the school curriculum.

- "municipalize" all land of Sydney except single dwelling property to ensure that rents are controlled, land is assembled in all parts of the city for community use and the powers of landlords, merchants and industrialists are drastically cut back.

- extend public health service and build community medical co-operatives whose direction is controlled by people in the area.

- expand public housing program with design and decision-making under control of residents. Financing to come from a special 10 year tax on landlords and businesses.

These demands would only be a start. But until the fight is waged over political and economic power in the city of Sydney, the "labour candidates" on city council will only serve to administer city government in the interests of another class.

against possible lay-offs, speed-ups or forced retraining programs.

What the union could have done was make an agreement of no more than one year to see what the new management was like. Then they would have known what to guard against.

A major point should have been that any changes of job classification, training, increased work load and other matters falling outside of the contract must be negotiated with the union, rather than being decided by management on the basis of profit.

Control in these areas would enable workers to do away with company policies which place reduced labour costs before job security and high productivity before safety.

The most immediate demands of Olands workers are no lay-offs or cut-backs, no increased work load, a guaranteed number of work hours at full pay for temporary employees, and bring back the canteen.

STILL TIME TO ACT

A contract may have been signed — but it was signed with the promises of both Olands and Labatts that there would be neither lay-offs nor changes in the working conditions.

Workers still have the power to deal with the problems at hand. To combat lay-offs and cut-backs in shift time, workers can threaten and use the slow-down strike. Men can refuse to work overtime while others are being laid off. They can also refuse to move to another department or machine if this means they will be taking over another man's job.

What this will mean is fighting grievances procedures through to the end, bucking the boss at every turn, and building the basis of workers control to make sure that workers don't become the real bargain of the Olands sale.

Olands

From Page 1

With policies like this, are we really sad to see Olands go? As a small family company, most of the Olands' money stayed in Nova Scotia. But this didn't mean much to the workers. As one man said, "We may make good money, but we're still the lowest paid brewery workers in Canada."

It didn't mean much to Nova Scotia either. Olands financed a few sports teams and the Olands choir, but their motive, like Labatts, was always profit. The advertising value to Olands was well worth the money spent.

COULDN'T COMPETE

But Olands couldn't stand up to the rough-tough Canada-wide competition. Afraid that their markets would be raided by Labatts, they sold out before it was too late. Both companies considered it a good deal. Olands received \$11 million. Labatts got two breweries and access to the Maritimes market. They stretched their holdings to cover all 10 provinces.

Labatts has no interest in the Maritimes except as producers and consumers of beer. They are more interested in building the Labatt Empire than building Nova Scotia. They will invest their money — including the money they drain out of Nova Scotia — where it is most profitable. And if Nova Scotia isn't looking juicy enough, they can just pull out — unless controls are placed on them by shop-floor agreements or by workers pressure on government to change current laws.

Labatts has done this before. Take the case of Lucky Breweries, Inc. in California, part of the Labatts chain. "Competition," Labatts told its stockholders, "was reducing the potential profitability of the company." Last week

Workers to pay for Nixonomics

BY KEN CLARE AND FRANK RICHARDS

Announcements on the American economy over the past two months by US President Richard Nixon have created a flurry of headlines in the daily press and endless discussion on TV and radio. Yet true to form these media have failed to provide any understanding of the real issues involved. The following article was written by members of the staff of the East Coast Worker in an attempt to make clear US economic problems and the effects of Nixon's policies on the working class of Canada and the US. The editors feel that it will be best read together with the article "Socialism versus Capitalism" on page eight.

The new economic policy of the Nixon administration is causing great concern in most, if not all, capitalist countries of the world. The Canadian government, in particular, has made several hat-in-hand trips to the US begging for favours since the new policy has come into effect. But what does it mean for the working man and woman?

First of all let's state clearly what Nixon has done. He has said that no workers will be allowed pay raises and that no companies will be allowed to raise their prices for ninety days. And further, that a committee of businessmen and labour leaders will be set up after the ninety days to make sure that pay increases and prices do not rise too high or too quickly.

Next Nixon has said that all products (except raw materials such as oil, minerals and forest products) produced outside of the US will cost 10% more than they used to. If a refrigerator was made in Canada and used to sell in the US for \$150 it will now cost \$165 there.

Thirdly, corporations will have their taxes cut by 10% when they buy new machinery and expand their factories.

Finally, the government has set up a federal agency which will provide money and assistance to corporations who increase their production of goods for sale outside of the US.

MORE GOING OUT THAN COMING IN

Why has Nixon taken these steps? The main reason is that there is more money going out of the country than there is coming in. The US spends 129 billion dollars in countries outside of the US while foreign countries spend less than 105 billion dollars in the US. This means that the US has a difference of 24 billion dollars in its balance of payments.

If this difference keeps on growing the US under its present system will go broke. It won't have enough money to invest in industry to create jobs for the growing population and those presently unemployed. The government won't have enough money to provide schools, health services, and welfare. It could well lead to a crisis somewhat like that of the depression of the 1930's.

But what causes this difference between the money coming into and going out of the country? The new policy of the Nixon administration suggests that it is because the people of the United States spend too much of their incomes on goods and services produced in foreign countries instead of those produced in the US.

By forbidding wage and price increases it is hoped that US products will become cheaper than those produced overseas and in Canada. Thus US citizens will buy more US-made products.

By raising the price of goods produced outside of the country by 10% (the import surcharge) US citizens will again be forced to buy more US-made goods. And finally, by cutting the taxes of US corporations and giving them money to produce export products the US will be able to produce and sell its products more cheaply in other countries.

By forcing people to spend more of their money on goods produced in the US and by making US goods cheaper abroad and thus selling more of them the Nixon government hopes less money will go out of the country and more will come in.

But the difference between the money spent by US citizens on goods produced outside of the country and the money spent by foreign citizens on US-made goods is really only a small part of the problem. The US government also spends a great deal of money outside of the country, which is added to the total of the money flowing out of the country.

Out of the 24 billion dollar difference between the money going out of and coming into the country only 4.2 billion dollars results from US citizens spending their incomes on goods and services produced outside the country.

Out of the remaining 19 or 20 billion dollars some is spent by the Nixon government on foreign aid to support pro-US capitalist governments in the poor and underdeveloped countries. The rest is spent on military adventures mainly in Vietnam but also in Europe, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East to support the same capitalist governments against revolutions by the people of those countries.

Without such large amounts of financial and military aid these governments could not survive. And without these governments US capitalists would not be allowed into their countries to remove the resources and exploit the working people. It is only by providing this aid that the American government can be sure that US capitalists will meet with little opposition in the poor and underdeveloped countries.

FAIR GAME!



Thus in facing this crisis of spending too much money abroad the Nixon government had two choices: either to slow down its activities as world policeman for capitalism; or demand that the US working class and the other capitalist countries and their working classes increase their share of the costs of policing the world. Nixon chose the latter course.

The end result of Nixon's new economic policy is a drastic change in the lives of the workers in all capitalist countries. But it is the American worker who will be most affected. US workers will be paying for Nixon's policies in two ways: through lower wages and fewer government services.

When Nixon made the formal announcement of a wage-price freeze he neglected to mention that a large number of goods would not be subject to the price freeze. Added to this is the fact that wage-price control

boards (much like those of the Second World War) such as the one proposed by Nixon are known to be able to control wages but have little effect on prices. Finally, it is common knowledge that for years now increases in wages have lagged behind price increases.

This means that though workers' wages stay the same, they can't buy as much of the things they need because the prices are going up. So, in reality, their wages are lower.

Nixon's formal announcement also forgot to mention that the government would be spending less on health care, education, housing and welfare in the upcoming budget. This is aimed directly at the American working class and their families.

At the same time that things are getting tougher for the workers, Nixon is shelling out to the big companies, filling one pocket with money for goods they sell outside of the country and stuffing the other with much of the tax money they used to pay.

CANADIAN WORKERS AFFECTED

For Canadian workers, like those of other capitalist countries who are major trading partners of the US, life also looks bleak.

Almost 20% of the goods made in Canada are usually shipped to the US. When the American government put on the surcharge, it added 10% to the cost of Canadian shipments. A lot of these products can't compete at these higher prices, so they just won't be made.

Such a cutback in production will mean fewer jobs in a large number of Canadian factories. According to Canada's Trade and Industry Minister, Jean Lue Pepin, "90,000 jobs will be lost in Canada if the surcharge lasts longer than six months".

The American companies don't want to keep all Canadian products out, just the manufactured ones. They want Canada to keep sending raw materials which they can't do without. So they didn't put a surcharge on raw materials. They would like Canada to be simply a supplier of raw materials to the American empire and then to buy them back only in a finished and more expensive form, instead of manufacturing them in Canada.

Nixon has already shown that he's aiming for big changes in the Canadian economy. These changes were made in an article called the 'Shopping List' published in a Chicago newspaper. The article stated that if Canadian owners and managers wanted to get rid of the surcharge they would have to make some important concessions.

Two of these concessions are very important to us: changes in the Canada-US auto pact would cost thousands of jobs in Canada's car industry; secondly an end to government support of the Michelin Tire Co. would mean 1800 fewer jobs in Nova Scotia and a loss of \$50 million to the taxpayers of Nova Scotia.

MARITIMES PRODUCTS ALSO HIT

As well the surcharge promises to hit the economy of the Maritimes hard. Some of the most important products of our provinces — paper, apples, potatoes, etc. have had Americans as their biggest buyers. The 10% increase in prices will mean that many farmers, apple growers, paper workers, and woodlot owners will lose their markets and may, in fact, find themselves out of work.

The new economic policy of President Nixon is a confession that the American economy cannot reign supreme in world capitalism without some severe belt tightening. And unless American capitalism is fought at home and abroad that belt will be tightened around the workers of the US, Canada, and the other capitalist countries of the world.

New Canso owner will face four unions

Now that the government has announced that H.B. Nickerson and Co. will take over the Canso fish plant (provided that the Department of Regional Expansion coughs up enough money) the struggle is on again.

Will Canso Strait fishermen win recognition of the United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union, the union of their choice, after more than two years? And will plant workers be able to hold on to their union, the Canadian Seafood Workers Union?

With the liquidation of Acadia in July, contracts for both fishermen and plant workers went up for grabs. So infamous Canadian Food and Allied Workers Union, which stepped into Canso last spring and signed a sweetheart agreement with Acadia to "represent" trawlermen, is trying to increase its haul.

CFAWU GETS THUMBS DOWN

As well as planning to re-apply to "represent" the trawlermen, CFAW organizer Jim Coles is running

around trying to sign up plant workers who belong to CSWU. It's not the first time he's tried this trick. And it's not the first time the seafood workers have turned him down flat. Already over 200 of the 309 full-time plant workers in the former bargaining unit have signed up again with the CSWU.

Meanwhile, another union, the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Transport Workers (CBRT) claims it will enter the competition to "represent" the fishermen. Charlie Moulton, area rep for the CBRT and a Vice-president of the N.S. Federation of Labour, said this week that he has instructions from L. K. Abbott, Atlantic regional representative, to try for the contract.

The CBRT has never met with the men — but they do have contracts with the Nickerson plants in North Sydney, Riverport and Georgetown, PEI.

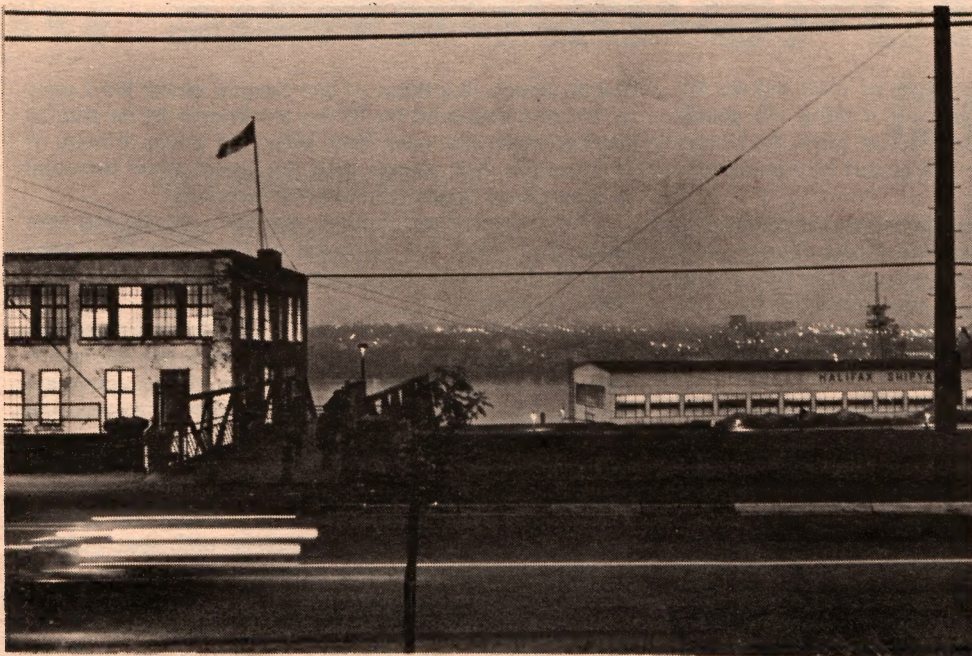
The UFAWU, the union which first organized fishermen in NS and has fought for the men since 1967, held a meeting in Canso last week. The fishermen voted to try once again for UFAWU recognition.

Con Mills, UFAWU organizer said before the meeting, "If the men want us, we'll do all we can to go in and fight for them. It's the same issue all over — the fishermen must have the right to the union of their choice." The fishermen are ready to fight, but they may have to wait a while yet. Although they and the plant workers have been unemployed for over 4 months, Regan is claiming that all he can do now is wait for DREE to fork out the money which is the key to the Nickerson deal — \$3 million at the least. DREE won't even say whether they are looking at the proposal.

CANSO PEOPLE NOT SURPRISED

The people of Canso aren't surprised. They learned long ago that the only time the government moves fast was when it moves against the workers.

"I'd be mighty surprised if the plant opened before Christmas," said a plant worker who has been unemployed since Acadia pulled out. "We're not counting on too much," said another.



In the last 10 years, a number of changes have come to the Halifax Shipyards. Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation has been replaced by Hawker Siddeley. There's a new manager. The Shipyards has changed the types of ships it is building; oil rigs are now the emphasis. New techniques of welding and repair work have been introduced.

But what has it all meant for the workers at the Yard? Take a look at the collective agreement of 1964-67 and then compare it to the contract of 1970-72. Most of the working conditions — overtime, layoffs, company rules for employees, the dirty work, the lunchrooms — haven't got better and some have got worse. In fact, on all these questions, the 1970 contract reads almost exactly the same as the 1964 contract. There's really been only one major change — the wages have gone up. But then, profits and consumer costs have also gone up and the men are no further ahead.

The men are still stuck with the same oppressive conditions of the shop floor. The owners, managers and foremen still control all aspects of the production. "Management is 'always' hovering around in the background." "You're always dangling on a string — you feel like a goddam puppet." "The foreman is always on my back." Even with the better wages, the Shipyard employees are not satisfied or getting more enjoyment out of their work.

STRAINING TO BE FREE

In 1919, a Northumberland England miner, William Straker, explained the workers' dissatis-

faction to a government commission strikes in the mining industry. He said:

"In the past, workmen have thought that if they could secure higher wages and better conditions they would be content. Employers have thought that if they granted these things the workers ought to be contented. But conditions have improved and the discontent and unrest have not disappeared. Many good people have come to the conclusion that workmen are so unreasonable that it is useless trying to satisfy them. The fact is that the unrest is deeper than wages, shillings and pence, and as they are. The root of the matter is the straining of the spirit of man for freedom."

Wage increases alone cannot set new strategies and new directions are needed. We learn much from some of the past struggles being conducted by the British workers' movements. One helpful example of workers' control is given by Ken Coates, a member of the Institute for Workers' Education in England. "Workers control signifies a transfer of power from management to workers and their organizations to ensure the prerogatives of management, and managerial authority in the enterprise, are not in the hands of capital in the economy." "begin to continue that workers' control 'beginning' simple trade union demands for control."

The Shipyards contract—how

THIS AGREEMENT dated as of June 25th, 1970 entered into between:

HAWKER SIDDELEY CANADA LTD.

HALIFAX SHIPYARDS
(HALIFAX AND DARTMOUTH PLANTS)

(hereinafter referred to as the "Company")

— and —

(Locals Nos. 1 and 13, INDUSTRIAL UNION OF MARINE AND SHIPBUILDING WORKERS OF CANADA, Chartered by the Marine Workers' Federation, C.L.C., or its successor (hereinafter referred to as the "Union")

ARTICLE 1

PREAMBLE AND RECOGNITION

It is the intent and purpose of the parties hereto that this Agreement will promote and improve industrial and economic relationship between the Company and its employees and to set forth the basic Agreement covering rates of pay, hours of work and conditions of employment to be observed by the parties hereto.

The Company recognizes the Union as the collective bargaining agency for the employees of the Company.

During the life of this Agreement the Company will not recognize any bargaining agency other than the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of Canada, Locals 1 and 13, and will so advise new employees.

All employees of the Company covered by this Agreement who are now members of the Union, or hereafter may become members must maintain their membership in the Union.

The Union in respect to and as part of this Agreement shall, through its Shop Stewards, undertake to actively promote general efficiency and productivity of its members and will direct all its members to actively assist in the work on hand.

The Union by virtue of this Agreement shall endeavour to establish and maintain on the part of its members a high and individual responsibility for Company property and equipment.

ARTICLE 4

MANAGEMENT

The Management of the Plant and other Company properties together with the direction of the working forces, including the right to hire, suspend, discharge for proper cause, promote, demote, or transfer, and the right to relieve employees from duty because of lack of work or for other legitimate reasons is vested in the Company, subject, nevertheless, to all other provisions of this Agreement.

The right to select men for position of Assistant Foreman, Foreman, and other supervisory jobs is vested in the Company.

Article 1 operates on 3 assumptions.

1) The Shipyards is now being run efficiently. 2) The men should work as hard as possible for the owners.

3) It is the job of the union to act as a "police force" over the men and make sure they keep producing. Let's look at those assumptions. 1) The Shipyards are in a bad state of repair. The company drains out as much profit as possible and puts back as little as possible, for upkeep and renovations. Usually funds for such renovations run out in January or February. When Hawker wants to, it can pull out as it did at the steel plant in Sydney. A committee of workers must fight for access to the company books (profits, sales, investment policies, marketing, competitors, etc.) to find out, for a start, what future plans Hawker has for the Shipyards and how much money is being spent on renovations.

In other areas, the company is also doing a bad job of management. There is poor co-ordination with the armed forces on refits, tools and supplies (eg. welding rods and electrical cable) are often not available when needed, the parking is terrible ("if you don't want to get home an hour late, you have to go an hour early). There's many examples of poor planning and co-ordination between sub contractors and Shipyards supervisors, between departments and within departments. The people who are the most efficient, who know the most about the various jobs, and who do the actual production are the workers of the Shipyard. 2) This assumption can be answered with the question, "why should the employees work hard if the benefits and control of that production under the present economic system go to the owners?" 3) The union's job is to protect and fight for its members, not to be a gang of security guards.

When management has all the powers listed in Article 4, there isn't too much left to bargain over. And yet these are some of the most important issues of the shop floor. If workers had, through determined struggle, won the right to decide on promotions to foremen, how would they possibly handle this question? First, the decision would be based on an examination of competence, ability to work with others and determination to

Any changes affecting working conditions of the employees as laid down in this Agreement shall be subject to negotiations between the Company and the Union.

The Company reserves the right to improve its present facilities, equipment or processes and/or install new equipment, either as a substitute for or in addition to the present facilities and to make whatever adjustments or arrangements in working force it may consider necessary or justified as a result thereof.

The Company will discuss any major changes with the Union and give every consideration to placing men displaced by such action on other work when possible.

ARTICLE 5

SENIORITY

No employee shall be entitled to seniority until he has been in the employ of the Company for six (6) months within a period of one (1) year. Any employee becoming entitled to seniority after the date of this Agreement shall have his seniority dated six (6) months previous to the date on which he has qualified for seniority.

ARTICLE 6

ADJUSTMENT OF GRIEVANCES

A grievance is hereby defined as a difference or dispute between the Company and the Union as to the interpretation, application, administration or claimed violation of any terms or provisions of this Agreement. Should any difference arise between the Company and the Union or the employees of the Company as to the above, there shall be no suspension of work, slowdown or sit-down by the employees or any lockout by the Company on account of such differences but an honest effort shall be made to settle same by the undernoted method of procedure.

ARTICLE 9

POSTING NOTICES

The Company will provide notice boards prominently placed on its property for the use of the Union. Notices other than those giving notice of meetings, may be posted if approved by the Manager of Personnel and Industrial Relations.

ARTICLE 13

SAFETY, SANITATION AND HEALTH

The Company shall make reasonable provisions for the safety, sanitation and health of its employees at the Plant.

A Safety Committee composed of equal representation from the Management and

oppose arbitrary, profit-oriented dictates of management (instead of being based on favouritism, ability to drive men for greater productivity and "a company mentality" as usually occurs at present). Second, the promotion to foremen would be decided by an election of all the men in a particular shop. Third, the foremen could be recalled at any time by another vote of the men. This is only one example of what workers' control could mean. This also an example of the kind of question over which the owners would fight long and hard.

Employees join the union after 30 days but don't get seniority for 6 months. This policy only helps management, especially in layoffs. Guys can be hired on for a few months then fired when they're not needed any more. "Seniority should begin the day you join the union."

Plain and simply, the second clause has "got to go." "The deck is already stacked against the workers in the grievance procedure." While the idea of a "grievance procedure" does serve a function and was only gained by a long, hard struggle by the trade union movement, it must be supplemented with action, at critical times, on the shop floor. Most grievances should be settled immediately by "shop-floor democracy." If the worker has a just cause and the company refuses to back down, wildcats, slowdowns and sitdowns may be necessary to put the pressure on the company and hurry up a solution. "Often after 4 or 5 months, a man's anger is drained and he's lost his will to keep fighting."

Let's say you want to organize a meeting in Halifax or get names on a petition. One of the best places to put announcements would be on the bulletin boards at the Shipyards. But, oh no, the company says you can't — unless you get permission from Eddy Colbert. Besides, you can be fired for breaking this rule. "There's an assumption that the outside world is completely alien. Perhaps we should build our own bulletin boards."

investigating and firing, tea-breaks, hours, speeds of work, allocation of jobs, and so on."

The struggle moves to higher levels and is waged over questions such as opening the books of the corporation, control over profits and investment decisions, and fundamental relationships on the shop floor. Finally, the possibility emerges for a complete replacement of the powers of the capitalist class both inside the factory and in the wider society by the powers of the working class and its allies.

CONCRETE POSSIBILITY OF WORKERS CONTROL

The fight for direct control of the work place does not accept the basic assumptions made about conditions on the shop floor or in the total factory. It challenges the ideas that "it's always been done this way" and "the bosses know best." It replaces them with the concrete possibility of workers and their elected representatives (in rank and file controlled workers' councils) deciding what is produced, how it is produced and who receives the benefits of that production. Workers' control opens up a whole range of new alternatives to break out of the present system and present relationships.

NOT POSSIBLE UNDER CAPITALISM

Immediately, two points about workers' control must be made clear. Total workers' control is not possible within a capitalist economy. The

nature of this type of economy is based on the ownership and control of the means of production by private capitalists. Workers' control, even if the struggle is at its lowest level, is a direct attack on the authority of those owners. When workers attempt to take back certain aspects of that control, the owners of the enterprise will fight back with all their resources. Even when workers do take over the complete management of a work site, as the Scottish shipbuilders have recently done at the Clydeside Yard, there are the problems of supplies, distribution, sales, shortages of capital, and the powers of the state which still remain under the control of the capitalist class. The battle for workers' control will be a bitter one. Workers' control will require a socialist economy controlled by and operated in the interest of the working class.

WHAT ROLE FOR UNIONS?

How do we get towards workers' control? We must realize the limitations of the present trade union structures. "Corporate capital", writes the French socialist Andre Gorz, "has become reconciled to the existence of labour unions and shows willingness to recognize them officially, but on two conditions:

1. Unions must voice demands only that are realistic, that do not call capitalism into question, that are negotiable.

2. Once an agreement has been bargained out, unions must stick to it to prevent the workers from breaking it."

Both principles, combined with the generally conservative nature of union leadership, usually come into conflict with the fight for workers' control. There may be exceptions. The emphasis must be on rank-and-file organizations which directly express the needs of the rank-and-file and whose leadership is subject to immediate recall by workers.

NO BETTER AND NO WORSE

Below are some comments on sections of the 1970-72 collective agreement signed between the Industrial Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers of Canada (Locals 1 and 13) and Hawker Siddeley Canada Ltd. (Halifax Shipyards). This collective agreement was picked not because it was any better or any worse than others or because we feel that the Marine Workers Federation is any better or any worse than other unions. We are using it as an example and feel that the comments about it are relevant to workers in other work sites besides the shipyards. These comments suggest some ways in which the fight for workers' control can begin.

How to build workers' control

Union will meet twice monthly to review safety conditions in the plant and make any recommendation they deem advisable to Management.

Protective devices and other equipment for purposes of protecting employees from injury shall be provided by the Company.

It is mutually agreed that both parties hereto will cooperate to the fullest possible extent towards a prevention of accidents and the promotion of safety and health.

Operating machinery and equipment shall be inspected periodically by the Maintenance Supervisor or his delegated representative (s).

Staging required to be constructed shall be constructed under the direct supervision of a stager or a shipwright or in the case of slung staging, a rigger.

It is agreed that the First Aid Attendant in charge will have authority to recommend to the Manager, Personnel and Industrial Relations the suspension of any employee whom the attendant has reasonable suspicion of infection with a communicable contagious disease until such employee has obtained a Doctor's certificate stating that this condition has been corrected. If this procedure an injustice has been done to any employee, the matter shall be taken under the regular grievance procedure.

Plane Operators must, at the discretion of the Company, submit themselves to a physical examination, and the results of each examination shall be final as to whether or not they shall continue to be employed in their classification.

First Aid Attendant shall be on duty in the Plant whenever twenty-five (25) or more employees are working.

What do you call reasonable? Most people know that the Shipyards is a very dangerous place to work; it has one of the highest number of workmen's compensation cases. Many men work in confined areas without ventilation or proper exits. There's a constant danger of fumes and flash fires. Spraypainter Bill Scudder died a few years ago when an exposed electric light broke and caused a flash fire in the chamber filled with paint fumes. Such lights are still used. Another guy was scarred for life when propane leaked into an area; it exploded when he lit up his welding torch. The Shipyard doesn't use lockout switches on electric boxes and signs aren't available to say that a circuit is on or off — it's amazing more people aren't killed.

The Safety Committee at the Shipyards has no authority, no power, no ability to put workers' safety before the needs of profit. The workers and elected representatives — either in the union or a rank and file committee — should take over the job of looking out for safety. Or a workers' protection league could be formed. Such a group would both go out looking for unsafe conditions and demand immediate changes after accidents. If the company refuses the demands, then a decision should be made over how to fight back. "Action, not recommendations."

What co-operation is possible between a company which is interested in productivity and shipping out profits and a union which fights for the safety of its membership first. With the managers and foremen, safety prevention usually occurs after an accident, not before. Charles Gillies was decapitated a few years ago by an elevator. Then the open shaft was wired up. Some compensation for Charlie's family! Or how about the unsanitary, dirty lunchrooms and toilets. "Construction workers often wildcat over toilet facilities which are not as bad as ours." And so it goes.

"Sure, there's all kinds of favouritism on overtime at the Yard. A few guys get it all. There should be a roster and an equal chance for everybody who wants it. "Favouritism is used by managers and foremen to pit men against one another for rewards. The guys who aren't "nice" are left out in the cold; the guys who suck hole can't be themselves. Overtime can also be

used to increase the chance of layoffs or build up materials before a strike. A workers' committee could police the use of overtime; they could make sure it gets shared equally and prevent overtime being used against workers. A representative from this committee would be present for an "end of shift", face-to-face meeting between the men of a particular shop and the foremen to decide on the allocation of overtime.

EMPLOYEES' MANUAL

This manual has been prepared for your guidance and information and includes a summary of the more important rules and regulations of the Company, but does not form part of this Agreement. Every employee should use his good judgement by refraining from doing anything that Management would not approve, even though it is not listed in this Manual.

OFFENCES—(Major)

1. Habitual absenteeism.
2. Insubordination (wilful disobedience to authority).
3. Theft.
4. Fighting.
5. Being on the Company's premises while under the influence of liquor.
6. Bring, having or consuming intoxicating liquor in the Plant.
7. Smoking in prohibited areas.
8. Wilful damage to Company property or property of others.
9. Any illegal act.
10. Gambling.
11. Violating Bulletin Board Rules of a major nature.
12. Punching a number other than your own on time clock.
13. Absent without notification or permission for a period in excess of five (5) consecutive work days.

Any employee committing any of the above offences will be liable to immediate dismissal.

The above list is illustrative and not exhaustive.

The whole idea of an employees' manual must be thrown out. "The rules are worse than those in high school. And the clauses like 'insubordination' really mean that they have the right to push you around and you're supposed to play dead." There are a couple of positive steps workers could take. First, the establishment of a "foreman's manual" which would say things like no swearing at men, no provocation of employees, no favouritism, no spying on men, etc. Some appropriate penalties, like a dunking in Halifax Harbour could be added for foremen who break the rules. (In Italy, foremen are forced to run the gauntlet between two lines of workers when they get pushy.) Second, to really find out who is lazy, who is efficient, who is responsible for men getting injured in unsafe conditions, an underground evaluation of foremen and supervisors could be written up and circulated around the plant. It would make great reading!



ARTICLE 16

HOURS OF LABOUR

It is recognized that overtime work is necessary in the industry and will be encouraged by the Union. As far as practicable excessive overtime shall be avoided. When overtime is worked it shall be distributed

In sickness or in health

It depends on your wealth

BY LARRY KATZ

Although major strides continue to be made in the medical sciences, people continue to be plagued by preventable diseases. The main cause of many of these diseases is poverty, a factor which is rarely included in medical research.

Unemployment, low wages, poor housing, underdevelopment, and class structure are neither challenged nor changed in the research laboratory. Governments continue to carry out studies, the latest being a \$142,500 subsidized health survey of Cape Breton, but ignore the root causes of the problem. Thus, it is hardly remarkable that the working class and other poor people are the daily victims of disease in our society.

The relationship of disease to poverty is clearly seen in the instance of infant death rates, which are an accurate barometer of public health and economic conditions of an area. In 1967, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia had the highest infant mortality rates in Canada.

The variations within the province, reflecting differences in economic and social standards, make the point even clearer. For example, the chances of pregnancy ending in a still birth is 40% higher outside Halifax than within the city. In Cape Breton it is 80% higher.

"ONE HUMAN LIFE IS WORTH MORE THAN ALL THE WEALTH OF THE RICHEST MAN IN THE WORLD"

CHE GUEVERA

Latin American Doctor and Revolutionary

Outside Halifax a premature infant has a 60% higher chance of dying. A full-term infant has twice the chance of dying in areas other than Halifax. And a woman in Cape Breton has 2½ times the chance of dying in pregnancy than a woman in Halifax.

Infant mortality can be decreased by improved and uncrowded housing, good nutrition, pure water and good sanitation, as well as by proper family health care by a doctor.

Even after infancy, many Nova Scotian children are subjected to unnecessary health problems. An unpublished study by the Nutritional Division of the N.S. Department of Health shows that of 1,700 children investigated, only 20% had diets considered nutritionally good.

Here in Nova Scotia we also have an extremely high rate of Blacklung disease, pneumonia, acute respiratory illnesses, bronchitis, emphysema, tuberculosis, gonorrhea, gastroenteritis and occupational injuries and deaths. Combined with a serious shortage of doctors and dentists and the lack of proper ambulance and hospital facilities this presents a public health picture which requires overall, radical change.

Inadequate health conditions both at home and on the job constantly endanger the lives of working class people. In 1969, 24 Nova Scotians died from tuberculosis and 12,429 were reported suffering from inactive tuberculosis. In Cape Breton alone, the case load for blacklung disease, an affliction of miners, is 1,168.

The number of workers injured each year because of unsafe working conditions is shocking. In Nova Scotia, between 1959 and 1963, there was an average of 19,034 on-the-job injuries reported each year. Between 1964 and 1968 the figure rose to 24,441. In 1969, 24,834 injuries were reported — 45 of these were fatal and 76 caused permanent disability. In Canada, 14-15,000 hospital beds are occupied by industrial accident victims 24 hours of every day of the year.

The government has recorded these statistics but has not forced companies to institute proper health and safety conditions. It is no secret that companies refuse to lay out the money voluntarily. And while workers have been dying from diseases or accidents that result

from unsafe working conditions, company owners have been raking in profits. In 1968, for example, 48 mining companies in Canada reported profits of \$497 million — and paid federal and provincial taxes of only 9%.

Although workmen's compensation is now a fact of life, it does not threaten the profits or power of the company. Under normal conditions the worker only receives in wages a fraction of the actual value he creates. In the case of injury, illness, or death, the worker or his family is eligible for compensation — but this is substantially less than his normal wage. The worker and his family have no right to sue for adequate compensation, and therefore must accept a scheme which automatically places most families below the poverty line.

Just as workers find government supporting companies when they strike for improved working conditions and wages, they find government placing the profit motive of private corporations before the health of working people. This is clearly seen when we look at the government budget and budgetary policies.

Millions of tax payer's dollars are handed to companies who funnel profits out of the province into head offices in foreign countries. Millions are squandered on corporate scandals. The government sees no reason to change these policies. But for public health expenditures it is a different story entirely.

Scott McNutt, Minister of Health, is playing up the \$34 million dollar debt of N.S. hospitals these days. Already he has put a stop to hospital construction in the province. And although the Minister of Health will stand in the way of public health expenditures, which has already meant the lay off of numerous hospital workers, he finds time to put in a plug for the "exploited" doctors in the province by proclaiming that "the Nova Scotian doctor is earning \$1000 less than those across Canada." This is the same government whose wage and development policies insure that Nova Scotian workers earn far less than their counterparts in other provinces.

"THE BEST FORM OF PROVIDING HEALTH PROTECTION WOULD BE TO CHANGE THE ECONOMIC SYSTEM WHICH PRODUCES ILL HEALTH, AND TO LIQUIDATE IGNORANCE, POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT . . . LET US TAKE THE PROFIT, THE PRIVATE ECONOMIC PROFIT, OUT OF MEDICINE, AND PURIFY OUR PROFESSION OF RAPACIOUS INDIVIDUALISM. LET US MAKE IT DISGRACEFUL TO ENRICH OURSELVES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE MISERIES OF OUR FELLOW MEN."

NORMAN BETHUNE (1890-1939)

Canadian Surgeon and Revolutionary

The average Canadian doctor reported a gross income of \$46,300 in 1969. This amount has increased significantly in the past few years. These people do not need our sympathy.

The medical and dental associations in Canada have for years shown more concern for their own individual security and financial advancement than for the people who need their skills. They have fought tooth and nail against the implementation of Medicare and Denticare for fear their earning power might be limited. And they have guarded their privileged position by trying to keep their numbers small. Concentration and monopolization is the name of the game.

It has long been recognized that there is a drastic shortage of doctors and dentists in Canada. In the Maritimes, where the poor economic and social conditions require more intensive medical care, there are proportionally fewer doctors than in other areas of Canada. The situation in rural areas is desperate, and yet the patient/doctor ratio has not improved during this entire century.

In 1911, in the Maritime provinces, there were 1,232 patients for every doctor. In 1960 the situation was even worse and the number had increased to 1,246. In 1952 there were 3,257 patients for every dentist in Nova Scotia. In 1961 the figure had risen to 3,689. These figures, moreover, do not point out two important facts. One is that with increased specialization many doctors see patients only rarely or not at all, and secondly, doctors and dentists are not equally distributed throughout the province.

Another vicious aspect of health in a capitalist society is the costs of drugs. As pointed out in a recent study, drug prices in Canada are higher than anywhere else in the world. Forty three of the 57 companies in the Pharmaceutical Managers Association of Canada are subsidiaries of foreign firms, 34 of them being U.S. subsidiaries.

These drug companies spend about \$3,000 per physician per year on advertising and contribute \$100,000 a year to the Canadian Medical Association by advertising in its journal. This investment pays off. The result is that doctors recommend Brand name products instead of Chemical or Generic name products. The quality of the products are the same but the prices, as the following table illustrates, differ drastically. The Druggists support this practice also since it means increased profits for them.

COMPARATIVE GENERIC AND BRAND NAME PRICES			
GENERIC NAME	PRICE	BRAND NAME	PRICE
Tolbutamide	\$6.90/1000	Orinase	\$64.00/1000
Dimenhydrat	\$6.12/1000	Gravol	\$69.55/1000
Prednisone	\$6.48/1000	Metacorten	\$63.05/1000
Meprobamate	\$4.59/1000	Esquanil	\$48.00/1000

In a government commissioned study it was shown that over a twelve year period, the average profit on sales for pharmaceuticals was about 64% higher than for other manufacturing companies. The Government readily accepts this get-rich-off-of-working-people policy — in N.S. drug costs are not covered by MSI. But even Medicare is supported by policies which discriminate against working people — 85% of Medicare costs comes from provincial sales tax. The profit motive is maintained at the expense of workers and the government holds up an image of social concern.

The sweeping changes required for good public health will require nothing less than doing away with the whole structure of the wage and profit system. Lynden McIntyre, Cape Breton staff reporter for the *Chronicle Herald*, recently wrote "Which comes first, economic development or improvement in essential services like health facilities?" It is this divided and twisted type of thinking which prolongs the problem. It is not necessary to choose between economic development and people. The two are not unrelated. But to have both requires living in a society where the economy is run for the benefit of the people.

The band-aid approach to medical care taken to date in Canada leaves the real causes of ill-health intact and does not insure that the most advanced techniques of medical care are gotten to the people. In Cuba this band-aid approach is now a thing of the past and the Cuban people have shown how socialism is necessary as a first step to the eradication of disease and poverty.

In 1958, Cuba had 57 hospitals. By 1969, ten years after the revolution there were 170, plus 250 polyclinics. Prior to the revolution there was one rural hospital, by 1969, there were 47. In ten years the number of hospital beds had doubled from 21,000 to 42,000.

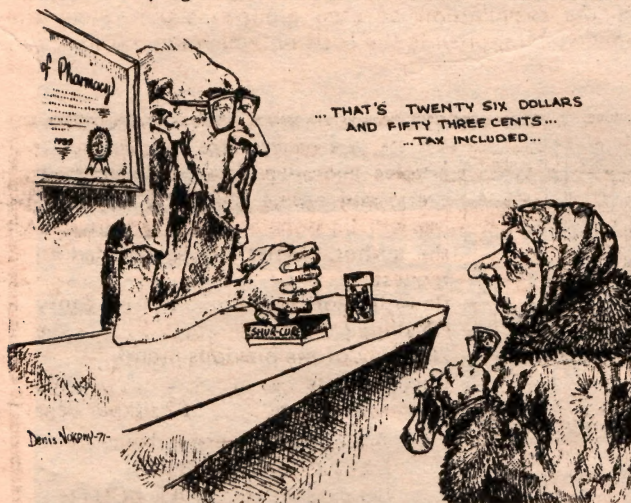
Instead of one Medical School that existed before the revolution, today there are three with 500 doctors graduating each year. Interestingly, 48 percent of all medical doctors, and this is quite understandable since doctors no longer grow rich off the poor, fled the country after the revolution, there were in 1969 7,000 doctors in Cuba. This is 1000 more than before the revolution. Moreover, these doctors live and practice all over the country and no longer congregate only in the large cities.

MEDICINE FOR THE PEOPLE

The health statistics show what a socialized economy and socialized medicine means to the Cuban people. Before the revolution there were 7-8,000 cases of malaria annually. In 1962 there were 3,519 cases and in 1967 there were only 10 cases. Gastroenteritis, one of the five leading causes of death in Latin America was reduced to a rate of 19.6 for every 100,000 people in Cuba in 1966. The rate in Columbia was 105.4, in Guatemala and in Peru it was 103.5.

Perhaps the best illustration of the success of the health program in socialist Cuba is the infant mortality rate. The Inter-American Development Bank informs us that "in nine Latin American countries the rate exceeds 80 per each thousand live births, and in two countries it is in excess of 100 per thousand live births." In no other Latin American country is infant mortality less than 42 per thousand live births. But in socialist Cuba, in 1966, it was 37.7. In 1969, in Louisbourg, Nova Scotia, in the so-called developed country of Canada, the rate was 43.5 — higher than in Cuba.

In Canada, we have the technical resources and wealth to eliminate the widespread conditions of poverty and ill-health. What we do not have, and the thing we must work toward, is socialism — a system where this wealth and these resources would be put to use for people rather than keep them in a state of social, economic and political bondage.



Small producers and monopolies



HUNDREDS OF WOODLOT OWNERS in Nova Scotia will be forced to shut down their increasingly uneconomic woodcutting operations this year. Hundreds of farmers will be forced to abandon their land and move to towns and cities to look for work. A large number of inshore fishermen will place their nets and traps for the last time.

For these people the handwriting has been on the wall for a long time. In Nova Scotia, in the last twenty years, the number of farms has decreased by more than two-thirds and the amount of land used for farming has decreased by one-third. In Canada, 250,000 people had to abandon their farms between 1961 and 1966.

Large numbers of inshore fishermen have met a similar fate. The much talked of rustic Nova Scotian village is becoming a thing of the past. Large companies, monopolization of markets and greater efficiency have continued to turn inshore fishermen into wage earners on company owned trawlers.

VIRTUAL GHOST TOWNS ON EASTERN SHORE

Along the Eastern Shore, once the site of many small, self-contained fishing units, there are virtual ghost towns, left in the wake of big fish companies and monopolization. At Petit de Grat, for example, Booth Fisheries bluntly told all the inshore fishermen in the area that it would no longer buy their fish — Booth's trawlers were manned by these displaced fishermen.

Owners of small woodlots in Nova Scotia are faced with a similar squeeze. Because of the high cost of transportation, they have to sell to the pulp producing company nearest them at company-dictated prices. As a result of these low prices, many are being forced to give up their woodlots and move to the city or work directly for the pulp companies' woodland operations.

The destruction of the small by the big, the concentration of wealth into fewer and fewer hands has been going on since the birth of capitalism. The competitive ethic which capitalists talk so much of becomes more and more a myth. Although it is true that large factories,

division of labour, and the use of technological advances mean greater efficiency, this is all carried out without concern for people in the name of corporate profit and monopolization.

The woodlot owners and other working people like them are all part of the same general economic group, the independent commodity producers — people who possess their own land, their own machinery, their own boats: farmers, woodlot owners, craftsmen, and inshore fishermen.

They are all being attacked by the same force, huge corporations who are constantly expanding and absorbing these types of production.

These corporations (like Scott Paper, Consolidated Foods, and National Sea Products) because they control the market, also control the distribution of seed, fertilizer, farm machinery, fishing gear and bait. High prices on these items mean further problems for the small independent producer. The result is that the producer is caught in a squeeze — he needs to purchase goods to keep producing, yet he cannot afford the cost.

The corporations on the other hand are expanding because they have the money to grow. They can afford to buy up the farmland or woodlots, to build trawlers, to replace the independent producer once they have driven him out of business.

SMALL PRODUCERS HAVE STARTED FIGHTING BACK

In the last few years the small producers have begun to fight back. They have recognized the necessity to organize against the monopolies and formed such groups as the National Farmers Union, fishermen's unions, and most recently the Woodlot Owners Association.

The National Farmers Union has held tractor demonstrations, boycotts of companies, and marches to point out the difficulties faced by its members. The United Fishermen and Allied Workers Union is organizing inshore fishermen to bargain collectively with fish processing companies. The Woodlot Owners Association is pressing for a marketing board to represent them in dealings with the various wood products companies.

These struggles are part of the ongoing battle which has been waged since capitalism began. Before capitalism, almost all production was carried on in homes and shops of independent producers. When some merchants and better-off shop-keepers were able to accumulate large enough amounts of capital, and when machinery driven by power other than human labour was developed, then the factories were first set up.

The fight by independent producers has been going on ever since. Though the actions taken have often been militant, the statistics show that they have been losing. The first to lose have been those who thought they could wage the battle without allies. And the second have been those who have herded together but failed to recognize that their true allies are in the already industrialized workforce. Many in this class of people have already been through similar experiences that independent commodity producers are facing today.

The small producers must first realize that it is not a battle that they can win individually. Their individuality has been one of their most boasted qualities, but it is one which cannot stand them in good stead in this struggle. They must organize together to find solutions to their problems.

CANNOT FIGHT WITHOUT ALLIES

They must realize who the enemy is. It is not as they think, simply the large corporation. This leads them to go running to government for solutions. They must realize that government and company work together. It is government subsidies and government laws which increase company powers.

They must ally themselves with other groups who are exploited by the same government — corporation coalition — workers in various industries. This alliance in which each group must do its utmost to aid the other in battles with companies and monopolies, should be hammered out and agreed to by the rank and file of both organizations.

Monopolization, company-dictated policies, government-corporate collusion, and the exploitation of each group's labour under the present economic system, provide the basis on which natural links can be made.

EAST COAST WORKER

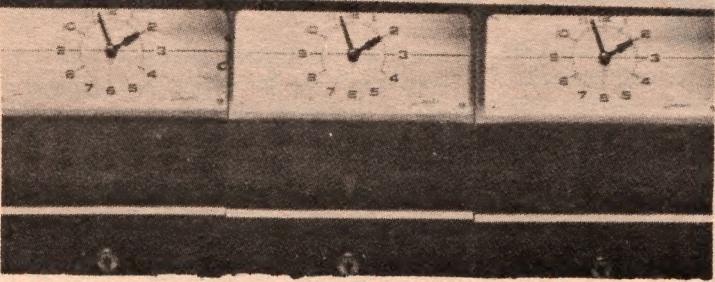
The East Coast Worker is published monthly by the East Coast Socialist Movement. It is a socialist newspaper dedicated to recording the daily struggles of the working class and fighting

for its just causes. We welcome your articles and ideas (include name, address, and phone number). Any editing will be done in consultation with the author. Names will be omitted on request.

Co-ordinator Alan Story
Deadline for articles the 20th day of the previous month.
Cost per issue 10c
Subscription rate \$2.00 per year

Address all correspondence to:
EAST COAST WORKER
BOX 3355, HALIFAX SOUTH
HALIFAX, N. S.

SHOPTALK



OPERATORS WILDCAT OVER WORKING CONDITIONS

Telephone operators in Ontario and Quebec hit the streets for four days last month to back their demands for higher wages and better working conditions.

Phone services were cut to a minimum as 8000 operators across both provinces came out in full force to picket and demonstrate. They are demanding wages in line with those paid to British Columbia operators who are now getting \$135 a week. The top rate in Ontario is \$104. (Nova Scotia's is \$99).

The walk-out came after the Bell Telephone Co. offered an increase of only \$13 and no change in oppressive working conditions. Both the company and the union (Traffic Employees Association) begged the workers to go back to work but they refused to give in.

Constant pressure to process calls at top speed, continuous supervision by supervisors and wire-tapping devices make work frustrating and exhausting. Operators can only use the bathroom on their 5 minute breaks and in many other ways are treated like kids.

By the fourth day, Bell was forced to start serious negotiations. The operators have returned to work, but have shown they are prepared to take militant strike action to back their demands.

DREE PLANS TRADE UNION SCHOOL

Government development experts once again are investing money to ensure a cheap and docile labour force for their industrial buddies.

If all goes as planned, the Atlantic Development Council, under DREE, will organize a regional institute for management studies and for training in trade union leadership. They want to make sure labour leaders know just whose rules they are playing by.

Tom Kent, new head of Devco, considers this a good investment. In fact he defended the 142,000 yearly budget of ADC on these grounds, saying "this is money from which extremely good value has been obtained." You bet!

A FEW HONEST WORDS ABOUT CONTAINERIZATION

It's good to see that Halterm president Joe Howard is finally saying a few honest words about containerization and who it benefits. Months ago Howard was promising all kinds of local benefits that would result from containerization in Halifax harbour. In a statement this week, Howard said that the container pier was never designed to give local exporters a competitive advantage but rather to promote and assist companies in Toronto and Montreal which continue to be the "centre of gravity" of Canadian shipping.

Annapolis Valley fruit growers are only one group who are finding they've got no benefits from containerization. "It is absolutely no use to us, no help at all," said Hillis Shaw, president of the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers Association.

According to Howard, the real purpose of the container pier is to attract traffic to the port that otherwise would have gone elsewhere. And then the lies and rationalizations begin again. He said that Halterm's chief benefit was "as another industry contributing to the economy of the area." Some industry that Howard is running down at the waterfront! Some contribution! The container pier has already thrown more than 1,000 men out of work. Howard is fading fast in his attempts to explain what concrete benefits containerization will bring to Nova Scotians.

NATIONAL SEA PROFITS ARE \$1,678,185

National Sea Products of Halifax has just announced its profits for the last year. They were \$1,678,185. While the CBRT and GW recently signed one of the better collective agreements for East Coast fishermen, such profit statements show how much workers put into the pocket of bosses every year. National Sea employs 550 fishermen on 33 ships sailing out of Halifax, Lunenburg, Louisburg and Lockeport. Even considering the number of plant employees, each National Sea fishermen produces more than \$1500 per year for the owners of the company.

SEND IN YOUR OWN ITEMS FOR SHOPTALK TO:

EAST COAST WORKER
BOX 3355, HALIFAX SOUTH
HALIFAX, N.S.

Socialism vs. Capitalism Imperialism and underdevelopment

BY STEVE STROPLE

Economic underdevelopment is a fact of life for many parts of the world, not the least of which is the Maritimes. Underdevelopment, however, is the effect, the symptom, of a much wider problem, imperialism. It is because of imperialism that we have the underdevelopment of both Canada as a whole and the Maritimes in particular. To understand underdevelopment it is first necessary to understand imperialism.

Here in Nova Scotia we have witnessed several of the characteristics of imperialism. We are heavily engaged in primary industries. Pulp and paper and logging, coal mining, now offshore oil are or have been major industries in the province. At the same time there is a lack of manufacturing industries. What industry there has been was mainly associated with processing raw materials. For example the Sydney Steel Plant, produces basic steel which then goes somewhere else to be made into steel products. We have also seen numerous foreign industries come into the province in good times, take out their huge profits and then pull out leaving the people of the province in the lurch. Hawker Siddley in Sydney, Scott Paper in Sheet Harbour, Hustler Products in Sydney and Acadia Fisheries in Canso are the most recent examples. We also see how companies exploit cheap labour available here. General Instruments in Sydney employs over 600 women and pays them the minimum wage. Hawker Siddley at Trenton recently threatened to close down if forced to increase wages to the level demanded by the workers. Michelin Tire openly states that cheap cost of labour is one reason why they came to Nova Scotia. And so the story continues.

Imperialism is the most advanced stage of capitalism. It marks the development of capitalism into a worldwide economic system extending into all countries and areas and shaping the economies of those countries. Imperialism grew out of the needs of capitalism to continually expand.

CONQUEST AND PLUNDER

Capitalism first developed in Western Europe but driven by the need to expand, to find new markets and new opportunities for investment, soon set forth upon imperialist ventures. At first this meant the military conquest of foreign lands and the building of colonial empires, such as the famous British, French and Spanish Empires which included North and South America, Africa, India, China and so on.

In the beginning, these lands were simply plundered; huge amounts of gold and silver and furs were removed to the mother countries where they provided investment capital for business and industry. Eventually these lands were settled and consequently developed economies of their own, and plundering was replaced by trade. The colonies were good markets for products manufactured in the mother country. They provided outlets for investment capital which also came from the mother country. The mother country dominated the colonies; they served the economic interests and needs of the mother country first and their own development came second.

The colonies resisted this domination and control of their economies, but were kept in check by the threat of military intervention from the mother country. Several colonies, most notably the United States fought wars with the mother country to gain independence. The independent colonies, as they developed, also faced the problem of how to expand their economies, and in turn became imperialist powers. The United States, in fact, is today the most powerful imperialist country in the world. Modern day imperialism is much more sophisticated than in the days of colonies. The trend of military conquest and occupation of foreign countries has been replaced by more subtle economic and political domination.

Imperialism is a relationship between the economically advanced or developed countries, and the underdeveloped or backward areas. Whether an area or country is developed or underdeveloped can be decided only by comparing it with other areas. For example, Canada is underdeveloped compared with the United States, but relatively

developed compared with Mexico. British Columbia is underdeveloped in relation to Ontario but highly developed compared to Nova Scotia. The developed or advanced areas are those with a relatively high concentration of manufacturing industry, a high output of goods — in other words, a healthy economy. The underdeveloped areas are those lacking manufacturing industries, with a small output of products and more 'economic problems'.

Now we can look at how the relationship of imperialism is built up. As we said before, the advanced countries face a constant problem of economic expansion. They must find new areas to invest in, new sources of raw materials needed to produce goods, and new markets in which to sell more goods. The underdeveloped countries often provide the best opportunities for such expansion. The underdeveloped countries, on the other hand, face the problem of basic economic development, and building a stable industrial base. Development requires huge amounts of capital, money, machinery, and so on, which is most readily available from the advanced countries.

THERE IS A SLIGHT CATCH

The underdeveloped areas then are only too anxious to bring in foreign capital and foreign industries from the advanced countries, and the advanced countries are usually only too willing to provide these since they are solving the problem of expansion at the same time.

But there is a slight catch. The advanced countries do not invest in underdeveloped areas simply because they want the backward countries to develop. Capital moves toward spheres in which the rate of profit is higher than the average. When investment takes place in underdeveloped areas it is because higher profits can be made there than in the developed areas. Plentiful and cheap sources of raw materials and cheap costs of labour make these high profits possible. The question of development is secondary to the problem of profits. In fact, the priority of making profits prevents development from taking place, preserving the backwardness of the underdeveloped areas.

There are two main ways in which the drive to make profits prevents development. First, the industries that the advanced countries invest in and set up usually are not the kind of industries which bring about development. Rather than manufacturing industries making finished products which would compete with industry in the developed country, the advanced countries invest in the kinds of industry which can supply the basic materials needed by the manufacturing industries at home. Most investment in the underdeveloped areas is a primary industry, mining, chemicals, agriculture and raw materials. Not only is the return from these primary industries less than from manufacturing industry, but the resources and raw materials are extracted from the country which means that there will be none left for any manufacturing industry that the underdeveloped area may want to set up in the future.

When investment is made in manufacturing industries it is in only 1 or 2 industries of a particular sort; the operation is simply a branch plant of the parent company located in the advanced country. In any case, the underdeveloped area is still faced with the necessity of importing most of the manufactured goods needed by the area. These imports are more expensive, in most cases, than the goods would cost if produced locally and this leaves the area poorer still. Secondly, the huge profits from investment in the underdeveloped area seldom stay in the underdeveloped area, but return to the advanced countries. Because they own the capital invested in the backward areas, the advanced countries own the profits made there. These profits for the most part are not reinvested in the underdeveloped areas. Development depends on the investment and continued reinvestment of huge amounts of capital in a broad range of enterprises, particularly manufacturing industry, and the creation of a stable economy able to carry on by itself. Needless to say if profits are not reinvested this development will not occur.